

Subject: Please Vote No on SB 1350

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask you to please vote *no on proposed Senate Bill 1350* tomorrow, which seeks to add the wolf, recently delisted from federal Endangered Species Act, as a game species in Michigan. Contrary to a non-subsistence wolf game hunting season for sport and thrill, or claimed necessity for livestock protection or human safety, please kindly consider these points:

1. We must be careful to ensure the protection of the wolf from adverse effects that could lead to a need for its *relisting* as a threatened or endangered species. This past weekend alone in Minnesota experienced the death of about 70 wolves, rapidly taken from the ecosystem for sport.
2. State law-makers should respect and consider the beliefs and concerns of its first peoples. To my people, the Anishinaabe, we have very special ties to wolves -- *Ma'iingan*. "What happens to Anishinaabe, happens to Ma'iingan, and what happens to Ma'iingan, happens to Anishinaabe" our oral history and teachings advise. We are concerned with the long-term survival of wolves in the state, which is truly believed to signify the fate of our survival.
3. In order to consider Anishinaabe perspectives prior to decision-making on such bills that affect and concern us, the most reasonable and respectable solution would be for law-makers to at least consult with us prior to enacting such changes to laws.
4. A Resolution (KB-1902-2012, attached) was passed by KBIC Tribal Council opposed to any change in the law that allows hunting and/or trapping of the gray wolf in Michigan in order to preserve the ecological balance of predator-prey and protect the sanctity of Ma'iingan for the Anishinaabe.
5. Wolf related conflicts range in severity from perceived conflict (i.e. visual presence of a wolf) to actual aggressive or predatory behavior (i.e. witnessed predation of domestic animals on private property). Wolves are not likely to attack any person who does not deliberately incite aggression (i.e. by provoking or feeding). Education efforts that increase awareness and understanding should be the number one tool used to minimize wolf-human conflict.
6. Where actual threats are identified, the severity, immediacy and frequency of safety threats could guide management responses as stated in the State of Michigan Wolf Plan.
7. There are alternative wolf management opportunities and non-lethal methods that could be used where threat of a wolf warrants action, as opposed to an open hunting season.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider these comments,

Jessica L. Koski
Tribal Member
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

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KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

2012 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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ELIZABETH D. MAYO, Vice President
SUSAN J. LAFERNIER, Secretary
JERRY LEE CURTIS, Asst. Secretary
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MICHAEL F. LAFERNIER, SR.
CAROLE L. LAPOINTE
ELIZABETH "CHIZ" MATTHEWS

RESOLUTION KB-1902-2012

WHEREAS: The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe exercising inherent sovereign authority over its members and its territories, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community has a reservation created pursuant to the 1854 Treaty with the Chippewa, 10 Stat. 1109; and

WHEREAS: The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is organized pursuant to the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, (48 Stat. 984 U.S.C. §476) with a Constitution and Bylaws duly approved by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior on December 17, 1936; and

WHEREAS: Article VI, Section 1 (a) of the Constitution imposes a duty on the Tribal Council to protect the health, security and general welfare of the Community; and

WHEREAS: legislation HB 5834 has been filed to designate the gray wolf as a game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season making it allowable to hunt gray wolf on an annual basis throughout the state, and

WHEREAS: the gray wolf is a species which has significant importance to the culture and way of life of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and has only recently been reestablished in the State after suffering near-extinction through historical hunting and trapping pressure, and

WHEREAS: The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community believes the gray wolf is not an appropriate species to harvest for subsistence purposes, its numbers cannot withstand depletion by recreational hunting without danger of being relisted as threatened or endangered, and depleting numbers of wolves will upset the ecological balance between predator and prey, and

WHEREAS: Michigan law already contains adequate means by which depredation by a gray wolf to livestock and other animals can be remediated and problem wolves controlled.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Council formally states their opposition to HB 5834 and any change in the laws of the State of Michigan by which wolves are designated as a game species and a wolf hunting and/or trapping season is allowed.

(Resolution No. KB-1902-2012 Approved by KBIC Tribal Council on November 1, 2012)

LAKE SUPERIOR BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

"Home of the Midnight Two-Step Championship"

RESOLUTION

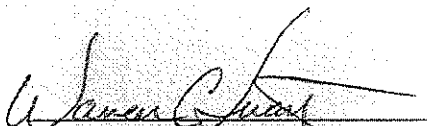
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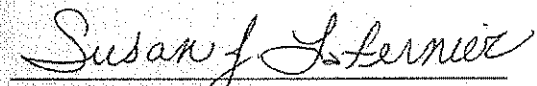
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CERTIFICATION

We, Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President and Susan J. LaFerner, Secretary of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. KB-1902-2012 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Tribal Council of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community at a duly called meeting held on November 1, 2012 there being a quorum present, by a vote of: 6 In Favor, 1 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions, as follows:

Vice President, Elizabeth D. Mayo:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Secretary, Susan J. LaFerner:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Asst. Secretary, Jerry Lee Curtis:	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	<u>NOT PRESENT</u>
Treasurer, Toni J. Minton:	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	<u>NOT PRESENT</u>
Council Person, Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr.:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Council Person, Fred Dakota:	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	<u>NOT PRESENT</u>
Council Person, Eddy Edwards:	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	<u>NOT PRESENT</u>
Council Person, Jean Jokinen:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Council Person, Michael F. LaFerner, Sr.:	AYE	<u>NAY</u>	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Council Person, Carole L. LaPointe:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
Council Person, Elizabeth "Chiz" Mathews:	<u>AYE</u>	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
President, Warren C. Swartz, Jr.: (If Required)	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT


Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President


Susan J. LaFerner, Secretary